

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2018

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AND T&ES STAFF

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 3 – ITEMS FOR CONSENT

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various ongoing projects.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the items for consent.

A. WMATA Funding Update

The WMATA Board of Directors approved the collective bargaining agreements with the OPEIU Local 2 and the ATU Local 689. These approvals require that the jurisdictions fund the shortfall of salary and benefits from prior years. The total impact for all jurisdictions for FY18 and previous fiscal years is \$24.9 Million, to be contributed to WMATA by January 2, 2019. The impact for all jurisdictions for FY19 will be \$29.1 Million, to be contributed by July 2, 2019. Jurisdictions will be allowed to use WMATA's short-term debt lines of credit to fund this obligation if desired.

B. Alexandria Transit Vision Plan:

The Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Plan will redraw the city's bus network to better serve current/future transit demand, and to better reflect community priorities for transit service. The plan is anticipated to be completed in summer 2019.

A joint Transportation Commission / Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) Board meeting was held on September 27 to provide an overview of the project and discuss choices and trade offs. On Saturday, September 29, a stakeholder workshop was held to receive input from key stakeholders and discuss choices and trade offs. A number of other civic engagement opportunities are planned for this fall, including:

- Online Transit Choices Survey (In English and Spanish)
- Pop up outreach at various community events and transit stations in October
- Two Public Workshops focusing on transit priorities and trade offs
 - October 16, 7:00-9:00pm, Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron Street
 - October 18, 7:00-9:00pm, Samuel Tucker Elementary School, 435 Ferdinand Day Drive

The ATV Plan will involve three rounds of civic engagement to ensure that concerns and ideas of the Alexandria community are heard, recognized and incorporated into the development of a

future transit network. The first round of outreach, starting this fall, is especially critical, as it will help the project team define community transit priorities and ATV Plan objectives.

More information on the ATV Plan can be found on the project webpage at:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/transit>

C. WMATA Shutdown Updates

To conduct capital maintenance to increase Metrorail reliability and safety, WMATA be conducting the following closures to service:

November 2018: Recently, WMATA has changed of the upcoming closure dates of the Reagan National Airport and Crystal City Metrorail stations to November 9th through November 12th, to take advantage of the Veterans' Day holiday weekend to reduce impacts on commuters. Originally, this work was scheduled for November 2nd through November 5th. Blue Line trains will operate in two segments: between Franconia-Springfield & Braddock Road and between Pentagon City & Largo Town Center. Yellow Line trains will operate in two segments: between Huntington & Braddock Road and between Pentagon City & Mt Vernon Square. Express shuttle bus service options are being developed between Franconia-Springfield and Pentagon for Friday and Monday. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

Immediately following the Thanksgiving holiday (November 26th-December 9th), Metro will begin a continuous 14-day capital program on the Yellow Line bridge over the Potomac River. There will be no Yellow Line service between Virginia and the District of Columbia. Blue Line trains will run between Franconia-Springfield & Largo Town Center and between Huntington & Largo Town Center. Additional details and service information will be announced in October. For more information, please visit: <https://www.wmata.com/about/news/Release-November-Capital-Improvement-Projects.cfm>.

Summer 2019: The City and DASH have been working with WMATA on mitigation plans for the Metrorail shutdown in the summer of 2019. WMATA is planning to shut down and rebuild all Metrorail stations south of Reagan National Airport between May and September. This work will greatly improve riders experience using Metrorail with new amenities and more reliable service.

WMATA, DASH, and the City are finalizing initial planning, including TDM options, shuttles, traffic engineering improvements, and bicycling. WMATA expects to release a first draft of mitigations in November 2018. There will be much more public engagement before the actual shutdown begins. A framework plan was presented to City Council on October 9, 2018.

D. Seminary Road Project Update

The Seminary Road Complete Streets project was initiated in May 2018, in order to examine possible changes to the road configuration (from Quaker Lane to the I-395 interchange). Seminary Road is scheduled for repaving in the near future, and the City's Complete Streets Policy directs staff to use street work as an opportunity to consider and incorporate improvements to enhance the safety and convenience of all users.

Staff is working with the community and stakeholders to determine roadway improvements for Seminary Road, from Quaker Lane to Kenmore Avenue, and at the North Howard Street

intersection, where staff was awarded grant funding to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility.

This project kicked off with public events over the summer to gather basic information about issues, concerns, and ideas. Throughout the summer, the project team has continued to collect and synopsize feedback and worked to develop and analyzing potential design options.

On October 18th, 2018, the project team will present several potential design options to the public, along with analysis about impacts to traffic, safety, and accessibility for each of the alternatives. The project team will also conduct further outreach to gather specific feedback on each of the concept designs, including via an online survey.

Based on analysis of the concept designs and feedback received, the project team will select, present, gather detailed feedback and finalize an overall plan for the corridor. The goal is to implement the selected concept to implement in Spring 2019 in conjunction with repaving.